

Claims

1. An insulating structure comprising a surface, at least a portion of said surface having a patterned texture.
2. An insulating structure as claimed in Claim 1, in which 5 the patterned texture is two-dimensional.
3. An insulating structure as claimed in Claim 2, in which the width, radius or circumference of said insulating structure is non-uniform along its length.
4. An insulating structure as claimed in Claims 2 or 3, in 10 which the patterned texture is fluted.
5. An insulating structure as claimed in Claim 3, in which said insulating structure is elongated and longitudinally fluted.
6. An insulating structure as claimed in Claims 4 or 5, in 15 which the flute depth at any point on said structure varies according to the width, radius or circumference of the structure.
7. An insulating structure as claimed in Claim 6, in which the perimeter length for all transverse sections of said 20 insulating structure is substantially constant along the length of the structure.
8. An insulating structure as claimed in Claim 4, in which the fluting has a sinusoidal or saw-tooth profile.
9. An insulating structure as claimed in Claim 1, in which 25 the patterned texture is three-dimensional.

10. An insulating structure as claimed in Claim 9, in which said insulating structure is formed with an array of protuberances.

11. An insulating structure as claimed in Claims 9 or 10, in 5 which said insulating structure is formed with an array of concavities.

12. An insulating structure as claimed in any of Claims 9 to 10, in which said protuberances and/or concavities are geometrical sections of spherical, ellipsoidal, paraboloidal, 10 hyperboloidal, conical or other symmetric form.

13. An insulating structure as claimed in any of Claims 9 to 12, in which the form of the protuberances and/or concavities is such that the surface area of said insulating structure is substantially constant along its length.

15 14. An insulating structure as claimed in any of Claims 9 to 12, in which the form of the protuberances and/or concavities is such that the surface area of said insulating structure is controlled to produce a defined variation along its length.